



May 2013
Newsletter
PO Box 299 Oberon 2787
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Well, the May working bee will have come and gone by the time you read this (slightly delayed) Newsletter. See the later items for the various tasks which were completed during this successful working bee. Once again thanks to all those keen fettlers who turned up and did their bit.

Note there are now plans afoot for the Coolah rail retrieval exercise – see later in the Newsletter.

At the meeting a great deal of discussion took place re the upcoming Oberon 150th anniversary celebrations in July. Various ideas have been proposed, including a track maintenance vehicle on the back of a truck, plus a 73 class loco outline in MDF. If you have any bright ideas we would like to hear from you. Please contact Secretary Elaine or any member of the Committee. So, put your thinking cap on and give us your input. There will be an enhanced historic photo display at the station.

Next Meeting

Ordinary General Meeting

7:30pm 5th June, 2013

So you want to drive a steam train?....

The Victorian Goldfields Railway has an interesting special package available for rail buffs. Under supervision, you may drive a train with either a diesel or vintage loco as motive power. The train is a “make believe” goods train with a rake of wagons attached.

The route takes you from Maldon to Castlemaine, a distance of over 34 km. Full day packages are available for one, two or four people and cover all aspects of the preparation, operation and maintenance of the loco and the train. The “trainee” is on the footplate for the return journey of 68km. This is an experience of a lifetime! For more information see www.vgr.com.au



Upcoming Working Bees:

Sat 8th Jun – Fri 14th Jun

Sat 6th Jul – Fri 12th Jul

The last working bee saw the concrete laying completed on the western side of the rolling stock shed. Also the track was levelled prior to certification.

The cattle wagon had its wooden superstructure separated from the steel chassis, in preparation for its transport to Warwick Armstrong’s property, where he will refurbish the timberwork.

If you can attend this **June** working bee, please let our Track Manager, Peter Culley know as soon as possible – Peter’s contact details are – 0427 042448.

Fettler Accommodation

The Oberon Men’s Shed team is now offering accommodation to our out-of-town fettlers. The only cost will be to join the Men’s Shed at an annual fee of \$10 – a bargain! Volunteers requiring accommodation over the working bee days should contact Laurie Evans (Ph 63361254) - co-ordinator for fettler accommodation.

Working Bee Catering

Members who can assist with catering for our fettlers should contact Lynette Ireland on 0428 490 809. Volunteers are required to assist with the catering - any edible donations will be greatly appreciated.

Mystery photo of the Month

Where is this beautifully restored 19 class steam loco? No, it’s not at Oberon Station ... unfortunately. It’s at a place we have all heard about, not too far from Sydney and has many thousands of visitors each year. It’s in the company of many other heritage locos and rolling stock.

This loco is not now in working order, so is only a static display. It is a great example of the locos once regularly seen at Oberon station.



By Rail Motor across Victoria

Col and Glenda Bembrick have recently returned from a nine day tour of western Victoria travelling by rail motor. This 1930 vintage vehicle is called a DERM – a diesel electric rail motor. It is run as a tourist operation by the DERM Preservation Association of Victoria. www.derpav.net.au

The photo below shows passengers embarking via a set of steps through the luggage area. The location is the junction of the Deniliquin and Moulamein lines near Echuca – there is no station. Here we were travelling on the broad gauge in NSW.



The DERM is unusual in that the two GM diesel engines and generator are above the floor at one end of the railmotor. The luggage area separates the engines from the passenger seating. The unit may be driven from either end. It holds 58 passengers and is equipped with a toilet. The interior shown below has fixed seating with varnished timber panelling. These are capable of 100km/hr – as was demonstrated on this tour.



The tour was organised by Insights Tours who specialise in tours with a heritage railway flavour – www.insightstours.com.au. On five days out of the 9 day tour we travelled largely on the DERM and on other days by coach (which carried all the luggage).

Another vintage rail experience on this tour was the special parlour car on the Victorian Goldfields Railway from Castlemaine to Maldon – hauled by a vintage diesel loco. The joy of this journey was the rear viewing platform on the car where there were two wicker seats, making for great views of the countryside.

Rolling Stock Shed Activities

The first “road” into the rolling stock shed has been levelled and is now certified, with thanks to Graham Priddle. We now have to obtain permission to move the American Suburban carriages in to the shed. Also, a quote has now been received for the safety lights required for the rolling stock shed.

Coolah

The retrieval of rail and points gear from Coolah has now become a priority. A trip to Coolah is being planned for the weekend of 18/19 May. This will enable decisions to be made as to exactly what to salvage and how to transport it back to Oberon.

This field trip will continue to Tamworth to pick up some American Suburban carriage internal fittings which have been offered to OTHR.

If you would like to participate in all or part of this exercise, please contact our Track Manager, Peter Culley – see phone no. on first page.

The Bush Telegraph

The leaking station roof has now been repaired by John Holland Rail personnel. Eventually, the whole roof is slated for replacement and John Holland rail is currently looking into this.

Oberon Council has generously agreed to fund an OTHR historical placard for Oberon’s 150th Celebrations. This will mean your Editor will have to do some more historical research!

A quote has been obtained for the plumbing and soil testing associated with installing a toilet at the station. Thanks to David McMurray who is assisting with this. A functioning toilet at the station will be a vital addition to the infrastructure when we come to run tourist trains.

The cattle wagon (No. 17192) has now been moved to Warwick Armstrong’s property where the timber superstructure will be rebuilt and refurbished.

Membership reminder.... Not Yet Due!!

Our financial year now runs to 30th June, so your membership is not due until 30th June, 2013. The membership is still only \$15 per person – send your cheque to our Treasurer Marjorie at the address on the masthead. You can also easily pay online at our website.

Our Ordinary General meeting minutes are now available on our website. You can also easily find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTHR.Inc Check out the events calendar on our website, plus new historic photos.

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